activities under Elite Progeny Scheme at its Farms. It is also undertaking other farm related activities such as fisheries, piggery, duckery and raising of plantation crops. NSC is mainly getting foundation seed and certified seed produced through contract growers. It is also undertaking activities relating to imparting training in seed production processing, certification and marketing technology for the candidates coming from national and international field.

(d) No such proposal is with the Government at present.

(e) Does not arise.

Revision of Tariff on Foreign Postal Articles

*230. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently revised the tariff on foreign postal articles;

(b) if so what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to improve the deteriorating Postal System in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign postal rates (except those for Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh) have been revised with effect from 1-11-91. The percentage increase generally ranges from 22 per cent to 60 per cent. For Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh there is no change and the existing rates continue.

There are variable rates for Pakistan, Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) Member Countries (Australia. China (Peoples Republic), Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Laos (PDR), Malaysia, New Zealand, Phillipines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Maldives, Nauru (Republic), Thailand and Sri Lanka and all other foreign countries.

The revised rates are as follows:

	A.P.P.U. Countries		Pakistan		Other Foreign Countries (UPU)	
	Pre-revised rates	Revised rates	Pre-revised rates	Revised rates	Pre-revised rates	Revised rates
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Aerogrammes . . .	5·00	6·50	3·00	5·00	5·00	6·5
Airmail Postcards . .	4·00	6·00	2·50	4·00	4·00	6·00
Single Postcard by surface mail	3·00	4·00	1·50	2·00	3·50	5·00
Letters upto 20 grams by surface mail . . .	4·50	7·00	2·50	6·00	5·00	8·00
Letters upto 20 grams by Air (Including air surcharge) .	6·50	11·00	4·00	8·00	6·50	11·00

Besides the above categories of mail, the foreign postage rates for Printed Papers including Newspaper and Books, Registered Newspapers, Small Packets and Bulk Bags have also been revised upwards.

Braille Literature to all foreign countries continue to be exempted from postage except that it attracts levy of air surcharge when it is proposed to transmit it by Air.

In addition, supplementary charges for foreign parcels in the foreign post have also been revised with effect from 1-12-1991. The increase ranges from Rs. 5/- to 30/- rounded off in multiples of Rs. 5/-.

(c) The Postal system in the country is operating at a reasonably satisfactory level. However the following are some of the contemplated measures to further improve the services:

(i) To motivate the postal employees it is proposed to give the Best Postman Award on Quarterly basis for each Postal Division in the country;

(ii) To take steps to improve the stamp impressions on articles of mail;

(iii) To monitor the punctuality and efficiency of the service periodically;

(iv) To install the multipurpose computerised counter machines at 4000 post office counters;

(v) Monitoring the delivery system in the rural areas.

Granite deposits in the country

*231. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated quantity of granite deposits and their value in the country, State-wise;

(b what is their export potential and unit value realisation internally and externally; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to exploit these deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Granite occurs in abundance in many States of India because of which the States normally do not take up any large scale exploration of granites.

The reserves of granites so far estimated by the respective State Governments are as follows:—

State	Estimated Reserves	Remarks
	(Figures in million Cub. Mts,)	
1. Andhra Pradesh	3·0	This represents estimation of reserves in a few areas. Estimation work is going on at present to have a more comprehensive assessment of reserves.
2. Assam	43·5	
3. Bihar	19·0	
4. Karnataka	55·7	
5. Rajasthan	0·08	
6. Tamil Nadu	15·9	This represents estmation of reserves of black granites. There is no estimation of reserves of coloured granite yet.
7. West Bengal	7·0	
8. Orissa	..	Estimation of reserves not yet taken up.